Howland Wood - Curatorial

Ros, Giuseppe

(Acting Consul-General for Italy

1916-1931

Shanghai, China]

August 31, 1916.

Giuseppe Eos, Esq.,

Acting-Consul General for Italy,

Hankow, China.

Dear Sir:-

Your letter of July 25th came to hand a few days ago and we will be very glad to co-operate with you and do anything in our power as regards Chinese numismatics.

We have, in this Society, a very fine collection of both ancient and modern Far Eastern coins. Mr. John Reilly, Jr., our Treasurer, has another very large collection, probably finer than ours. His coins are also installed in the Society's building. It is going to be one of our aims to push the study of Chinese numismatics, and Mr. Reilly is going to take charge of this. I also am much interested in the subject but my duties as Curator prevent me from devoting too much time on this series. Mr. Reilly was going to write you this Spring but he suddenly left for a trip to California but will correspond with you upon his return about November 1st.

I am enclosing on a separate sheet of paper, some references that I have made as to what we know about the Hong Kong Shanghai taels. I am also enclosing some rubbings of the two taels that Mr. Reilly has, together with five other pieces in his collection that I could put my hands on. On the balance of the sheets I am sending you rubbings of some of the Turkestan and queer pieces in my own collection and will follow these up later with some other rubbings. I am leaving to-day on my vacation otherwise I would send you some more now.

You will note that I have been especially interested in the Turkestan issues. I have included none of the copper coins in this list I am sending you. Please pardon me if some of these rubbings are not right side up as my stenographer who made them cannot read Chinese or Arabic. I am not sending you rubbings of the Hupeh tael as you said that you have it. I cannot find that we have any tael of Kansuh here and would appreciate rubbings of this. Nor do I know of the Turkestan tael nor the seven mace piece from Hunan, nor do I locate the tael from the same Province though Mr. Reilly may possibly have it among his coins. As for the Hong Kong and the Shanghai taels, I consider them simply patterns.

Dr. Comparette of the Mint has probably written you concerning the pre-curing of modern Chinese coins. Mr. Reilly will take this matter up with you further upon his return as he is very anxious to keep up to date with these coins. I assure you he will be very glad to keep up his correspondence with you which I know will be very valuable for us.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

CONSOLATO GENERALE D'ITALIA
SHANGHAI

November 27th, 1916

Mr. Howland Wood
c/o The American Numismatic Society
New York

Dear Sir,

Having been lately transferred to Shanghai, I have been unable to give an earlier reply to your very kind letter of August 31st.

I am greatly obliged for your notes concerning the Hongkong Shanghai tael, and for the rubbings of coins from your collection. For both these favours I beg to thank you most cordially, with apologies for doing so after so long a delay.

I have been very much interested in what you say about your intention to push the study of Chinese numismatics, and I will with great pleasure collaborate with you to this end. I would very gladly join your Association, and I hope you will be good enough to propose my name as a candidate for membership, and let me know something about the formalities to fulfill in order to be received as such.

The following are a few notes concerning the less known coins in my collection, of which rubbings are enclosed.

KANSUH TAEL . I received my specimen from Lanchowfu, the capital of Kansuh. It is dated 1912, and from its inscription appears to have been issued for the payment of troops. I have been unable to know where, and under whose authority it was minted.

HUNAN 7-MACE and TAEL PIECES . These figure among the rubbings

sent to me,being marked "Changsha",this being the city where they were cast. I enclose rubbings of the different pieces in my collection.

TURKESTAN COINS. I have two coins which do not figure among those in your collection,viz. a five miskals piece without rosette in the center of the rev.,and a four miskals of the same series,though with a dragon of a quite different design.

HUNG-HSIEN (Yuan Shih-k'ai's Empire) COINS. In Hunan ten cash coins were issued bearing the legend in English "The first year of Hung Shuan (viz.Hung-hsien)",but these became at once very scarce,so that at present even at Changsha they cannot be obtained on the market.I have a couple of spare specimens,and can send them to you if you like to have them. In the same province a small number of "Imperial" ten cents silver pieces were minted,but they were destroyed before any had been put in circulation. I secured one specimen privately,but I do not know if any other collector has been able to obtain one. The obv.of this coin is the same of that of the 10-cent piece issued in the 3rd year Hsuan-t'ung.

COMMEMORATION OF THE "CONCORD UNION". A dollar with a portrait of of Yuan Shih-k'ai in full uniform was issued in 1913,to commemorate the consolidation of the Republic through the Harmony between the different races inhabiting China and her dependencies (共和).It is rather scarce, though 50.000 are said to have been minted. It was also intended to have an issue of copper coins belonging to the same series,but only samples were prepared and no actual issue took place. I have in my collection three different patterns of such coins.

YUAN SHIH-K'AI's DOLLAR. I have secured a dollar with a portrait of Yuan Shih-k'ai different from the one on the dollars now circulating

CONSOLATO GENERALE D'ITALIA
SHANGHAI

in China. It never came into circulation,and is perhaps only a pattern. I have also subsidiary coins (½ doll.,20- and 10-cent pieces) dated the 3rd year of the Republic,and bearing the portrait of Yuan Shih-k'ai,similar to that on the dollar in circulation. An issue of such coins has been repeatedly announced but never took place.

I will from time to time advise you of any discovery in the numismatic field,and will very gladly give you any information you may require concerning Chinese modern coins.

Yours very sincerely,

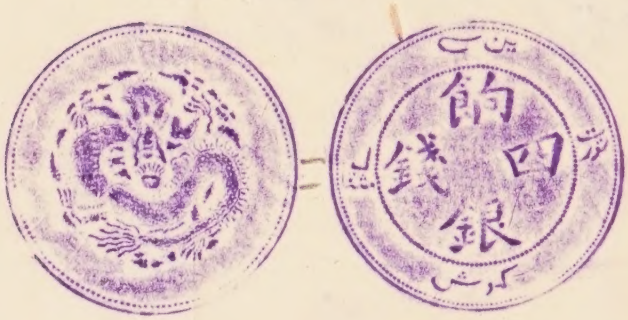
Giuseppe Ro

Silver - 1 Tael, dated 1912
(received from Lanchowfu, in Kansuh)

- Turkestan -

Silver. 5 miskals piece

Silver. 4 miskals piece



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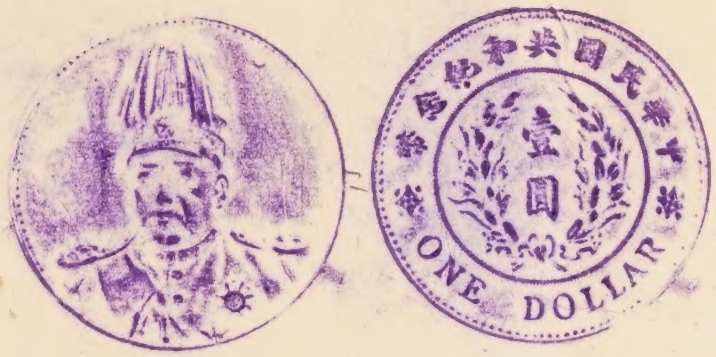



2

3

4

Coins commemorative of the "Concord Union" (共和).

1 - 1 dollar, silver (50.000 issued)

2. 3. 4 - patterns of 1 cent copper pieces which were never issued.

1914

Pattern coins with a different portrait of Yuan Shih-k'ai

Pattern Half-dollar

Pattern 20-cents

Pattern 10-cents

1

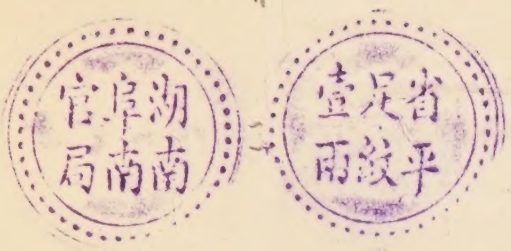
2

"Imperial" coins

1 - Copper 1-cent issued from the Changsha Mint

2 - Silver 10-cents, of which a limited number was minted. These however were not put in circulation and were soon re-melted.

1

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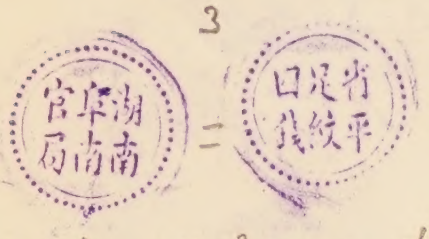



Issued from the Hou-nan Official Bureau in Hunan -
1 - 1-Tael piece = 2 - 5-mace piece
3 - 4-mace piece -

Issued from the Money Office of Hunan -
1-tael piece

Issued from the Chien-yi Bank in Changsha - value 7-mace -

=

The above, strictly speaking, are not coins but small ingots used in Hunan some years ago. They were accepted at their face value for the payment of Custom Duties -

March 2nd, 1917.

Guiseppi Ros, Esq.,
Consulate General of Italy,
Shanghai, China.

Dear Sir:-

The Council of The American Numismatic Society have instructed me to notify you that they have elected you a Corresponding Member of this Society on the nomination of Mr. John Reilly, Jr.

We most cordially welcome you to our activities and trust you will feel encouraged to keep in touch with us, so that we can be of service to you.

Furthermore, we trust you will feel encouraged to aid us in the splendid effort to give to the world exact information in the science of numismatics.

Very respectfully,

Treasurer.

Transcribe page Rose

Commencement Thesis

Year Towards the Study

Entomology

John Kelly

Change of address

Giuseppe Ros
Re Consulato Generale
d'Italia

Hankow
China

√

March 2, 1917.

Mr. Guiseppi Ros

Consulate General of Italy,

Shanghai, China.

Dear Sir:-

Your letter of November 27th came to hand about a month ago, and I was very glad to hear from you. You have by this time received a notification that you have been elected a Corresponding member of this Society, and we trust that we will be able to work together for the clarifying and up-building of Chinese numismatics. One of the delays in writing to you has been of receipt during January, of the Ramsden collection. This is now in our building and I think that it will remain here. You can well appreciate that this make our collection, added to four big collection we have already here, probably the finest and strongest in the world.

Your notes and rubbings are much appreciated, and all of the pieces you sent rubbings of are new to me and we will be very glad to accept you offer of sending on any of these you may have in duplicate, and any new pieces that you may pick up we would be pleased to have, whether or not they are the common current coin or not. We, of course, wish to pay you for whatever you send on. Possibly it would be best to keep a running account and pay you by draft whenever the amount reaches a sum worth sending on.

If you desire any information or rubbings of any of the pieces in the Ramsden collection, let us know and we will oblige you. Also, if there are any coins to be picked up in this country that you might want, we will try to get them for you. I would send you on some more rubbings in this letter but we are so swamped in looking over the Ramsden coins, which by the way, are only partly unpacked, that we hardly know where we are at.

I beg to remain,

Yours very truly,

CONSOLATO GENERALE D'ITALIA
SHANGHAI

April 27th 1917

Mr. John Reilly, Jr.,
Hon. Treasurer of the American Numismatic Society,
New York

Dear Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated March 2nd, informing me of my election to Corresponding Member of your Society.

It is a great honour that which the American Numismatic Society has conferred upon me and I ask you to kindly convey to the Council the assurances of my heartfelt appreciation and thanks.

I will very gladly cooperate with you on the field of oriental numismatics and I hope that you will allow me to send from time to time some contribution to THE NUMISMATIST.

I would appreciate very much your sending me a copy of the rules of the Society in order that I may be able to conform to them in my relations with the same.

Very respectfully,

Giuseppe Ros

CONSOLATO GENERALE D'ITALIA
SHANGHAI

April 27th,1917

Mr.Howland Wood,

c/ American Numismatic Society

New York

Dear Sir,

Very many thanks for your kind letter of March 2nd. I have been so very glad for having been elected corresponding member of your Society, and I do hope to be able to be useful in some way to its scopes.

Glad to hear that the Ramsden collection has not been broken up and is in its entirety in able hands. An attempt had been made by me to secure it, but the price asked for,though quite reasonable if considering its value,was too high for me.I hope to come at an early date in New York to see it installed in your beautiful building.

I am enclosing this time a sheet containing rubbings of a small lot of silver coins received lately from Urumtsi. You will see that No.1 is the tael piece of which I had secured a specimen from Lanchowfu,in Kansuh: I can ascertain therefore that it is a Turkestan coin,of which a 5-mace piece was also issued(no.5). Very few among the coins represented on the sheet correspond exactly to varieties of which you sent me rubbings. There are also some copper pieces,a description of which you will find in a catalogue of republican coins which I am now prepa-

CONSOLATO GENERALE D'ITALIA
SHANGHAI

ring,and a copy of which I will forward to you in due time.

I will very gladly send from time to time some coins of which I have spare samples, but please do not say a word about reimbursement. Even if they are not picked up among coins in circulation but bought in curio shops ( I mean of course modern coins,in which I am specialised) they have locally very small value.

I am sending now a copper cent commemorative of the Republic, bearing the portrait of Yuan Shih-kai in full military uniform. The dies were prepared in the Hupeh mint (at Wuchang) by a native artist; very few samples were struck and it cannot be found neither in circulation nor in curio shops.

If you let me know something about the modern coins included in your collection,I will try to fill as many blanks as I will be able to. You may send a list of those mentioned by Ramsden or Stewart Lockhart but missing in your cabinet, adding a list of those discovered by you and not mentioned by the two above named authors.

Yours sincerely,

Giuseppe Ro

CONSOLATO GENERALE D'ITALIA
SHANGHAI

26th June, 1917

Mr. John Reilly,

Hon. Treasurer American Numismatic Society,

New York

Dear Sir,

I have the honour to send to you, as an interesting document for the library of the Society, a proclamation issued by the Provincial Government of Kiangsu, concerning the issue from the Nanking Mint of new silver and bronze coins of the value of 50-, 20-, 10-, 1-, and half-cent respectively. The proclamation is accompanied by a sheet on which the fac-similes of the coins are reproduced.

When the above coins are put in circulation I will send a set to the Society and to you, if required.

Yours faithfully,

Giuseppe Ros

September 8th, 1917.

Dr. Giuseppe Ros,
Consolato Generale d'Italia,
Shanghai, China.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of August 7th came to hand yesterday and the three copies of your catalogue of the Republican Coins of China this morning, and I beg to thank you for these in behalf of the Society, Mr. Reilly and myself. Mr. Reilly is still in California, and I will send him on his copy. I spent most of the morning looking over your monograph, and am very much pleased with it, especially the notes that you have made and the translation of the Chinese inscriptions. I want to congratulate you on the way you have written these. Most writers on Chinese coins take too much for granted, going under the supposition that their readers know as much as they do on the subject. I will take great pleasure in reviewing this for the Numismatist. Whenever you desire to send anything for publication to the Numismatist, I will be most pleased to see it through the press as I did with Mr. Ramsden's monograph on Modern Chinese Copper Coins. You will note in that that a considerable amount of Chinese type was used. Mr. Ramsden sent over this type, and I did my best to see that it was set up correctly. Unfortunately I think most of this type has been lost as there have been two changes of printers since that article has been published.

As you have been made a Corresponding Member of the Society there are no dues, and you should receive the American Journal of Numismatics from time to time as it is issued. Back volumes, of course, must be charged for at the regular rate as well as any special book or monograph we may issue and sell.

Under separate cover I am sending you a historical sketch of the Society, which includes a list of the publications we have issued with their prices and a list of the medals that we have also published.

I am under the impression that Volume 49 of the Journal has been sent you. Please let me know if you have received it. Within a month or so we will send you volume 50, which is now on the press, and contains a dictionary of coin denominations.

The duties of a corresponding member consist chiefly of keeping us informed of what is going on in a numismatic way, and which you are so ably doing.

As we wrote you before, Mr. Reilly has bought the Tamaden Collection, and it is installed in our building, though it will be sometime yet before it is well arranged together with Mr. Reilly's own collection.

I beg to apologize most humbly for not answering your letter of April 27th. My only excuse is that I have been alone here the larger part of the summer and have also been away considerably. I was much interested in the proclamation you sent concerning the coins issued in Kiangsu, and I note that you state that if you are able to get hold of a set of these coins, you will send them to us. We would appreciate this very much as we have not these coins. The rubbings of the various Turkishman pieces are very valuable to me, and I am very glad to have them. Unfortunately I have not been able to devote any time to the Chinese coins this summer though it was my intention to do so. We have had a number of large accessions of coins including over fifteen thousand Mohammedan pieces, and I have been simply swamped in roughly assembling these without even attempting to arrange them or classify them. In fact I do not see any daylight ahead of me for some time to come. When Mr. Reilly gets back, I will try to work with him and arrange the modern Chinese coins we have here. They comprise four collections, Reilly's, Tamaden's, the Society's and my own, all of which will probably be joined together in one collection.

I beg to thank you for the copper coin commemorative of the Republic. It is the first one of this type we have had. We have not been able to get an example of the dollar, Nos. 6 and 7 of Li Yuan Hung with cap on it, nor have we been able to get No. 21, and, of course, many of the copper coins.

Just before Mr. Reilly went away we discussed what we should do with Chinese coins this coming winter. It is Mr. Reilly's intention to devote in a systematic way a large part of his time which unfortunately he was not able to do last year on account of certain other duties.

In the meantime I remain very sincerely yours, and beg to apologize for my lack of courtesy for not acknowledging your previous letter.

Very truly yours,

Curator.

Ans'

CONSOLATO GENERALE D'ITALIA
SHANGHAI

28th August 1918

Mr. Howland Wood,

c/o The American Numismatic Society

New York

Dear Sir,

I sincerely regret that owing to the pressure of official work I have neglected for quite a number of months my duties to the Society of which I have the honour to be a member; and I hope that my apology for this unvoluntary neglect will be kindly accepted.

In a separate parcel I am sending two sets of the silver coinage of the 3rd year of the Republic (dollar, half dollar, twenty cents and ten cents), but I am afraid that the Society has already secured specimens of the same. The 5-cent nickel piece has not yet been issued, but I have received a copper proof from which the enclosed rubbings have been taken. Concerning the copper pieces I am still waiting for the 2-cent coin which is ready at the Tientsin Mint, but not yet put in circulation: I will forward the complete set (2-, 1-, and 1/2 cent) in due course.

I am also sending now one silver dollar dated 7 (1907), which is a very rare piece; a dollar of the first Canton issue (7 mace and 3 candareens instead of 7.2); a dollar from the Pei-yang Arsenal dated 22nd year K.S., the existence of which I did not suspect till a few months ago; a half

dollar from the Nanking Mint, also extremely scarce; Hunan and Yunnan 20-cent pieces; Hupeh 10-cent pieces dated Hsuan-t'ung (rare); Hupeh 2-cash piece (not circulated); Honan 1-cent pieces among which one of the Tai-ching ti kuo series dated (1911), very seldom met with. I hope that at least a few of these coins will fill vacant spaces in the Society collection.

I will be glad to be able to present to the Society other coins wanted and hope that you will be good enough to send me a list of the desiderata at your earliest convenience.

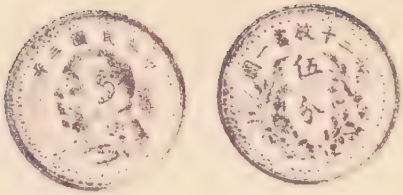
I think I can very soon begin to arrange my materials for the general catalogue of the Struck coins of the Kuang-hsu years, but I would like to publish it all at once, and not in small instalments . Do you think that such a catalogue, on the plan of my list of republican coins, but of course in larger proportions, with an elaborate introduction, and with better executed plates, would be of sufficient interest to be published in the annual volume of the Society? If you think that it could be accepted, I would start to work at once to have it ready by the middle of next year. I expect that about 200 pages of the size of the volume above referred to would be sufficient for the purpose.

Hoping to hear from you at your earliest convenience,

Yours very sincerely,

[illegible]

P.S. I would be greatly obliged if you could kindly let me have two copies of the Numismatist for August 1916, containing a description of the Hsuan-t'ung 3rd year coinage; and also your publications on Chinese and Tibetan coins. Kindly excuse my troubling you with this request.



FIRST YEAR OF HUANG
TEN CA

當十銅元

YUN-NAN PROVINCE

[illegible] piece [illegible]
[illegible] seven or eight years ago,
since. [illegible] I have tried vainly to
[illegible] an impression, though very high
prices were offered for one in the
different exchanges. Perhaps have
[illegible] at your disposal.

光緒元寶

November 25th, 1918.

Mr. Guisseppi Ros,
Consulate General of Italy,
Shanghai, China.

Dear Sir:-

I was extremely glad to get your letter of August 28th which came to hand some time ago. At once I sent you the Numismatists and Journals that included my articles on Chinese and Tibetan coins, and I trust that you receive these in due time. I have delayed writing you as I wished to consult Mr. Reilly who has been away all summer.

Within the next month or so we are going to make an especial effort to send to you a list of the modern Chinese coins we have here. We have been intending to do this for nearly a year but the war has unfortunately deprived us of part of our staff, and we have been very shorthanded.

The coins that you sent were very acceptable. With the exception of the dollar of Yuan-Shih-Kai we had none of the pieces, nor have we any of the pieces that you sent rubbings of. Until we send you our list, I can say that it is fairly safe for me to say that we have none of the most recent issues, and but a poor representation of the slightly earlier silver issues, as Mr. Ramsden did not collect anything in silver.

We would be very glad to publish in our Journal any articles or catalogues that you care to send us. As you know, our volume is an annual one so we are prepared to publish at one time long articles. Of course until I see the manuscript I could not say whether we could publish it in one installment or whether we would have to divide it in half. Probably we could print it all at one time.

What would you propose to do in the way of plates - send us photographs or send on the coins that you want illustrated? I could get better results working direct from the coins. It would be also absolutely necessary to run in Chinese type in the text. This you would have to supply us. Ramsden did this when we published in the Numismatist his Modern Chinese Copper Coins. Supply a piece of type for every character used. To handle this article in good shape so it would look well it would be necessary to have different sizes of type to fit in properly with the text. I am enclosing a list of headings that we use and a sample page showing the different type by points. This you might keep for future reference. We furnish gratis to each contributor fifty reprints with title page and cover. If the author desires more copies the charge is the actual cost of the extra paper, binding and run on the press.

Trusting to hear from you before long, I remain,

Yours very truly,

Curator.

CONSOLATO GENERALE D'ITALIA
SHANGHAI

6th December 1918

Mr. Howland Wood,

c/o The American Numismatic Society,

Broadway at 156th Street

New York

Dear Sir,

Your cover enclosing your publications on Oriental Coins was duly received some days ago, and I beg to thank you for the same. I am now anxiously waiting for your reply concerning the publication of my Catalogue of the Kuang-hsu and Hsuan-tung issues, the materials for which are all ready and only need to be arranged. I would suggest -if that is possible- to have the printing done here, and the plates in America. I suggest this because in order to issue a standard work it is necessary to insert a great number of Chinese characters, and if I have no opportunity to read the proofs, I am afraid that many mistakes both in the Chinese characters and in their trascription (about which Oriental scholars are very peculiar) may slip in. As for the plates it would be impossible to have them done here in a better style than the horrible ones in my Catalogue of the Republican pieces, and I propose to send to you the negatives of the photographs from the specimens in my collection, in order that the plates may be done there. I think it would be easy for you to enter into some agreement with a local printer here, through some gentlemen of the American Consulate General, for the printing of the

CONSOLATO GENERALE D'ITALIA
SHANGHAI

text in accordance with the lines on which the publications of the Society are issued. There are in Shanghai first class printing establishments, as Kelly and Walsh, Commercial Press, Oriental Press, Methodist Printing House, and Presbyterian Mission Press.

I have read with great interest in The Numismatist for May 1913 your remarks on the modern coinage of China, and I have a few queries to submit to you, hoping that you will be good enough to give me any available informations on the subjects. These are the following:

FIRM IN NEW JERSEY THAT FURNISHED PRESSES FOR TWO MINTS: Could you name that firm, as well as the mints for which presses were sent here ?

with Text, "Oberlin Smith Inventor & Pioneer"

(In Cassier's Magazine for May, 1903, there is an article on Coining Machinery in Chinese Mints, by Oberlin Smith and Henry A. Janvier. Mention is made of the plants for Chengtu and Wuchang. I wonder whether these are those you refer to. And, by the way, on page 5 of this article there is the illustration of a cash which is nowhere in circulation; it was apparently inteded for Szechwan, the Manchu legend being Pau Chwan, though Pau Chwan may also simply stand for Board of Revenue. Would it be possible to obtain a specimen or two from the firm where the dies were prepared?)

KWEI-CHOW STRUCK CASH. Is there any specimen of such cash in your collection, and would you oblige me with a rubbing from it? Any informations concerning such an issue would be very interesting, as I have never heard of it.

CONSOLATO GENERALE D'ITALIA
SHANGHAI

SHENSI TAI CHING TI KUO COIN. I suspect the coin you refer to belongs to some other province. Would you send me a rubbing showing the central character on the reverse?

PATTERN COINS. Do you know whether Mr.Ramsden's search for pattern coins (he used to advertise on the Philatelic and Numismatic Journal of Japan) was successful? If pattern coins are included in his collection or any other collection known to you, I would be obliged for rubbings and informations about the American or European firms where these were prepared.

I beg to enclose a Tai-Ching-Ti-Kuo 10-cash of Honan dated 1909. I can assure you it is a very rare piece,since only two (both in very poor condition) have been so far found by me among at least half a million copper pieces examined, and these were unknown to the many Chinese collectors to whom I had occasion to show them.

It is my intention to send to the Society one or two specimens of each variety of coins not described in Ramsden's paper on Copper Coins, of which I have more than two specimens. But it will take a little time to collect them, as there are not a few rare varieties which are very seldom met with.

CONSOLATO GENERALE D'ITALIA
SHANGHAI

Hoping to hear from you soon,

Yours sincerely,

Giuseppe Ros

March 5th, 1919.

Mr. Giuseppi Ros,
Consulate General of Italy,
Shanghai, China.

My dear Mr. Ros:-

Your letter of December 6th came to hand a few weeks ago. Since then we have had several conferences concerning the publication of your article. Since my letter of November 18th there has been several changes necessary as regards our publications. On account of the war and the excessive income tax of some of our rich members the funds for publishing the Journal have been very much curtailed, and where previously we had virtually almost unlimited leeway to go ahead we now have got to work very conservatively. At a conference with the Publication Committee and the Council of the Society held the other day we came to this conclusion. To find out from you, if you care to do so, an approximate estimate of just what the cost of printing your article would be in China. You had better get a price to cover all contingencies that might arise. Then, if possible, let us know the approximate number of plates, the size of our Journal, that would be needed for your article, and we will figure the making of the plates here. It might be just as well to figure on the possible bulk of your article when printed so that we could figure freight charges, insurance, duties, &c. When we get this material in hand we would then have a more or less concrete proposition to lay before two or three of our rich members who might then guarantee the expense of the publication. We are anxious to publish this article of yours, and would regret deeply not being able to do so but on account of conditions here it appears to us necessary to be cautious and get the money guaranteed before going ahead.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

Curator.

Chicago, 22nd May 1919

My Dear Mr. Wood,

Before starting for the second part of my overland trip, I want write to you to thank you again for the kindness you had for me and the cordial reception from you and Mr. Reilly, which will be a pleasant recollection of my flying visit to New York.

With my respectful compliments to Mrs. Wood and best greetings to you,

Yours sincerely

Gordon Bell

August 22, 1919.

Mr. Guiseppi Ros,
Consulate General of Italy,
Shanghai, China.

My dear Mr. Rost-

Your letter came while I was on my vacation. I am now figuring out with our printer the best way of going about the printing of your article. As Mr. Reilly may have told you we would want to lay the approximate cost before some rich man to see if he would underwrite the expense.

I do not quite understand what you say about the bill of exchange. Are Mexican dollars worth more than gold dollars? You mention the bill of exchange as about Mex. $9.50 - Gold $10. but very likely there will be a drop in the exchange the former rate being about $6. or $7. Mex. for 10 Gold dollars.

I am enclosing a newspaper clipping which I think refers to the man you crossed from Europe with. Also I am enclosing some rubbings of a medal presented to General Ward's family by Li Hung Chang who was then on a visit to this countr . I think it was you that asked me about this, stating that you had seen a mention of this in some book. This is what the Essex Institute writes me- "We feel sure the Li Medal did not have much to do with Ward. It seems that the medal was made in Hamburg in 1896 on the occasion of the visit of Li to that City. Li was in New York later and gave it to Miss Elizabeth C. Ward, Frederick Townsend Ward's daughter."

I trust you had a good trip back to China and that you are enjoying the quiet calm, surrounded by low buildings so different from the bustle and noise of New York.

I was hoping to send you a list of modern silver coins but Mr. Reilly has not sent them to me yet. He

CONSOLATO GENERALE D'ITALIA
SHANGHAI

2nd September, 1919

Dear Mr. Wood,

I have been successful at last in my hunt for a Yuan Shih-kai Commemorative Dollar, which I have great pleasure in sending you herewith enclosed. In the next few days I hope to be able to go through my duplicates which I have ben accumulating since my return here, and to send you some interesting pieces.

I have been experimenting in making casts from my coins, but owing perhaps to the bad quality of the gypsum I can find here, the results have been constantly most unsatisfactory. In a separate small box I am sending impression in tinfoil from three or four coins and I would be greatly obliged if you would kindly let me see the photos you can get from casts obtained from them. If the results are good, I will send similar impressions from all my coins, for the purpose of obtaining the illustrations for my book which I hope you will be able tto publish.

I bought from Kobayagawa of Yokohama some Turkestan and Formosa coins similar to those acquiredby Mr. Reilly. The same were sent to me by post and I was disappointed to find that not one among them was genuine. I wrote a very strong letter to Kobayagawa, and I feel it my duty to point out the fact, in order that collectors may be very careful in dealing with that firm.

Yours sincerely,

Giuseppe Ro

With Rev
about decorating China

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cribe
good
atics

r.

CONSOLATO GENERALE D'ITALIA
SHANGHAI

September 26th, 1919

Dear Mr. Wood,

Your kind letter of the 22nd August has been just received and I hasten to reply to it as I am leaving for a trip in the north to collect more materials and information for my book. I am sparing no effort to make this a very complete one and hope that the Society will be able to provide for its printing through the generosity of some wealthy members.

Thank you for the rubbings of the Li Hung Chang medal. I am glad to have collected some information about it.

I have received from Turkestan about 150 silver pieces both republican and of the former regime; but as I am busy preparing for my trip, I have not yet

gone through them. I do not think there are many duplicates, as my friend there has tried to put up a small collection of different pieces; but as I asked for some republican taels, it is likely that I will be able to send you one or two -

My next letter will sure contain some news interesting for our Society and also some coins for its collection -

Yours sincerely

Gmbeppeller

December 8, 1919

Guiseppi Ros, Esq.
Consulate General of Italy
Shanghai, China

Dear Sir:

Your letters of September 2nd and September 26th have been received for some time, and I have delayed writing as I have been expecting the tinfoil impressions you mentioned as having been sent on. These have never arrived, and I guess by this time they are lost.

I want to thank you for the Yuan Shih-Kai commemorative dollar. I was most glad to get this.

I am sorry you are having trouble with your gypsum. They must have good Plaster of Paris somewhere in China. You might try re-grinding it, and then sifting it. Of course, there is a little knack in mixing this and pouring it into the moulds.

I am sorry to know that the Formosa and Turkestan coins you got from Kobyayagama were fakes. Do you really know if the Formosan Republic actually struck coins? I was reading in the first number of the New China Review an account of this short-lived republic by Josea B. Morse, who was in charge of the Customs there at the time. Possibly if you know where he now is, and should write him, you may be able to get on the track of something.

Can you send me any information concerning the new Chinese decorations, that is, what are given out by the Republic, a brief description of them, the colors of the ribbons, and what they are given for?

I trust your trip in quest of numismatic material was successful, and would be glad to hear from you concerning this.

I have turned over your letters concerning your

article, and the estimates we have received in this country, to Mr. Reilly. He is now working on them, and is somewhat staggered at the expense of printing. Nearly everything is about double what it used to be.

I beg to remain,

Most truly yours,

Curator.

Modern Chinese Copper Coins [illegible] in the Collections of the [illegible] and John Reilly Jr. (Ramsden [illegible])

Tai Ching Tikuo

1 20 cash (a) 1 1906
1905
1907
11 also very slight variety of obv.
8 1909
6 10 cash (a) 2 1906
7 1905
8 1907
9 1909
10 5 cash (a) 3 1905
11 1907
2 cash 1907
(a) 5 1906
6 1905

An Hwei

15 10 cash (b) 1 1906
2 irregular
7 1909

Che Chiang

12 20 cash (c) 1 1906
10 " 2 1906
5 " 3 1906
2 " 4 1906

Chih Li

20 Cash 1906
10 " (d) 1 1906
5 "

Fan Kien

10 cash (e) 1 1906
1909

Fung Tien

20 Cash (f) 1905
1907
9 1909
10 cash 1905
brass 1906
1907
1909

HONan

34 淮 10 cash (g) 1. 1906
35 same irregular
36 汴 1906
37 same irregular
38 1909
1911

Hu Nan

40 10 cash (h) 1 1906
41 2 "
42 3 "

Hu Peh

43 10 cash (i) 1 1906
44 variety, see Reilly 1906
2
3 1909
24 mm 5 cash 4 1906
[illegible]
2 cash [illegible]

Kiang Soo

20 cash (j) 1 1906
brass 2 1906
10 cash 3 1906
irregular 4 1906

Kwang Tung or Si

10 cash (K) 1 1906
2 1907
1908

Nan King

10 cash (l) 1 1906
same. character in relief in circle
irregular 2 1906
3 1907
4 1907
5 1908
6 1908
[illegible]

much obverse of Regular
as in Ramsden 8 page 20
Rev of Tai Ching Ti Kuo 1 1906

Shang Tung

10 cash (m) 1 1906
same irregular
Var coarser work
all nutbring
2 cash. [illegible]
[illegible]

Tu Nan

70 10 cash (n) 1 1906

Kirin 吉

20 Cash 1903
10 cash [illegible]
same 吉 larger

Sze Chuan 川

10 cash [illegible]
all nutbring

雲

10 Cash 1906
same 雲 larger
all nutbrings

1 cash [illegible]
brass [illegible]

---

Kiangsu [illegible]

An Hwei

1-12 all of Ramsdens 12 var's
78-89

Che Kiang

90 Ramsden 1
91 2
92 2 irregular
93 3
94 4 brass
95 variety of dragon on nutbring
96 5
97 6
98 7 brass
99 var with circle all nutbring
100 var of Dragon " "

Chih Kiang

101 102 Ramsden 1 2 3

Fan Kien

104 7 Ramsden 1 2 3 4

F K [illegible]

109 Ramsden 1 2

Fen Tien

110 Ramsden's coin looks like a [illegible]

Fung Tien

111 Ramsden 20 cash 1903
112 1 1904
113 1905
114 10 cash [illegible]
115 2 [illegible]
116 3 [illegible]
117 4 1906
118 Ramsden [illegible] 20 cash [illegible]

JUNG PIEN PROEINCE

119 10 cash with hole Lockhart 1986

HoNan

120 Ramsden 1 20 cash
121 same brass. pattern made by Ferrecut
122 minister copper out ② coarse raise ⊙
123 " " " ③ "
124 Ramsden [illegible]

Hunan

125 Ramsden 1
126 2
127 3
128 4
129 5
130 6
131 7
132 8
133 9

Hu Peh

134 Ramsden 1 or mil
135 2
136 3 ✡ all nothing
137 4
138 5 larger Manchu
Ramsden obverse
as 2
139 6
140 7
141 8
142 9
143 10
144 11 1 cash
145 var of 3 all nothing

Hu Kow

146 20 cash Ramsden 1 either
147 " " " brass
148 10 cash 2
149 same in brass
150 3
151 5 cash 4

Kiang See

155–6 Ramsden 1–5

Kiang Su

157 Ramsden 1 no ornament
over H in CASH
158 2
159 same irregular
160 var ornament over H
none under upper part of
Dragon. rev of 1
161 similar finer scales
to dragon and ornaments
under upper part
162 Ramsden 3 obv as above
163 4
164 5
165 6
166 7
167 obv as 6 rev as 6 but
✡ instead of ✡
168–70 Ramsden 1, 2, 3

Kiang Nan

171–8 Ramsden 1 to 8
179 8 irregular

Kiang Soo

180 20 cash Ramsden 1 milled edge
181 " 2 plain edge
milled "
182 10 cash 3 milled edge
183 plain edge
184 4 milled edge
185 plain edge
186–200 5–15 inc

Sze Chuen

201 10 cash Lockhart 2040
very 3/4 lower down at side
202 " 111 larger
203 same as 1 but brass

Kirin

204 20 cash upright dragons
205 20 " Ramsden 1
18 varr
206 10 cash upright dragon
207 10 cash Ramsden 1
21 varr.

Kwang Tung

208 Ramsden 1
209 2
210 2 brass

Pei Yang

211 20 cash Ramsden 1
212 very counterfeit obv see 599
Rev of Pei Yang
213 2
214 3
215 4
216 5 11 15½ mm
217 6 15 " mm
162 " mm
7

Shang Tung

219 all nothing Ramsden 1 Rosettes in back ✡ mill
220 " " var ✡ "
221 " " 2 brass
222 " " 3 manchu
223 " " var of #1 but large rosettes on obv
224 " " large ornament above rev
225 " " " " " " var
226 Ramsden 4
I think the 2 brass ones are counterfeits

Tsing Kiang

227–30 Ramsden 1–4
231–2 also 2 with partly milled edge

Miscellaneous 1 cash free

Ramsden 1 甯
2 部
3 直
4 浙
5 總 general issue
same of Hsuan Tung and 西已

Republican Copper - Silver Coins of Colombia in Field and A.N.S. Collections, as per Check Sheet

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 (10 obverse of 9 and 10) 11 12 13 14

(12 condemned obverse) 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32

33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50

51 52 53 54 55

November 10th, 1930.

Mr. Guiseppi Ros,
c/o Consulate General of Italy,
Shanghai, China.

Dear Mr. Ros:-

Since my last letter to you of long ago, I have been in Europe for five months. I do not find that I have received a letter from you for pretty nearly a year, and I trust that you are well, and still keeping up your interests in the ancient Chinese coins.

I am enclosing a photograph of a gold fifty tael piece, two of which have recently come to this country. Can you tell me anything about it, why it was made, how many were struck, &c? Keep the photograph as we have the negative here. Unfortunately we did not have the money to buy this coin.

Very truly yours,

Curator.

R° CONSOLATO GENERALE D'ITALIA

Hankow, September 2nd 1921

Dear Mr. Howland Wood,

for quite a long time I have been unable to correspond with you, owing to the pressure of official work. I have been definitively transferred here as Consul, and as this office had been without an incumbent for the last three years, the work of reorganisation has been very hard indeed, and such as not to leave me a single minute to attend to my coins and my correspondence on the subject.

Your letter of several months ago enclosing photo of a gold medal was duly received. I am sorry I cannot tell you very much about it, but I can positively state is that it is not a 50-taels coin, though similar pieces in the collection of Mr. Bracey Woodward, bear the legend 50 or 25 taels. On the piece of which you have sent photo there appear two foreign names which I cannot make out exactly: they may be Ullmann and Schulmann: and then "Souvenir of 50 year" with a mistake in a character (記 for 紀). The above named Mr. Bracey Woodward, an American gentleman recently come to Shanghai from Japan, and who has begun collecting Chinese modern coins with great enthusiasm and large means, has been able to put together about twelve different medals or coins

resembling the one about which you enquire. Two more pieces are in possession of Mr. Jastrzembski, manager of the Russo-Asiatic Bank in Shanghai. All have been bought recently and I feel strongly suspicious about their age. There is especially a discrepancy between the foreign date 1869 and the Chinese date 10th year T'ung-chih (which corresponds to 1871) which could have never occurred if the pieces were made at that time. The collection of Mr. Bracey Woodward does not include the variety sent to America: on his pieces there are several different buddhas, and one has the God of Longevity. All are very finely engraved – they are not struck: I am inclined to consider them as repoussé work very finely finished by hand carving. I may add that I am on the way of tracing some connection between these pieces and the productions of a Chinese medal engraver, or, more exactly, carver, capable of doing extraordinarily fine work, especially when well paid for. And I hear that these pieces were paid an average of one thousand taels each, though I find very difficult to swallow such a statement.

Concerning my catalogue of coins, I have resumed work, and I have decided to print it on my own account. Only 120 copies of it – seventy for sale at one hundred dollars a copy, and fifty for presentation to libraries, Societies and friends (one copy for you, another for Mr. John Reilly). The form I am giving to it is that of monographs to be issued from time to time, and albums of reproduction of coins in loose leaf system for eventual additions and corrections. A printed prospect

R° CONSOLATO GENERALE D'ITALIA

Hankow, ..... 19

will be sent to you very soon.

May I ask you to let me know as soon as you can the following details about the half-Tael coin of which I enclose the design:

Is it in your collection or in that of Mr. John Reilly?

In which number of the organ of the Yokohama Numismatic Society, a rubbing from it was published?

Has something about it been published elsewhere?

Which is its weight in grains troy? (possibly up to $\frac{1}{1000}$ grain)

Where was it found?

I am sending to you under a separate cover a Historical Sketch of the Osaka Mint recently published there for private circulation. If the Library of the Society has been already supplied with a copy of it, kindly keep my copy for your own use with my best compliments.

Herewith enclosed please find a dollar of Yuan Shih-k'ai in uniform, having on the reverse the Imperial dragon and the legend 中華帝國 Chung-hua Ti-kuo, "Empire of China" - on top and in exergue 洪憲紀元 Hung-hsien chi yüan. "Beginning of the Hung-hsien era". This coin is a very

one, and commands respectable price on the market. The other Dollar is an ordinary Yuan Shi-Kai's one with the date eighth year (八年) instead of 3rd. (三年); not many of these are found in circulation.

I have read with interest your monograph on Mexican coins, and I must congratulate you for the medal awarded to you for your numismatic labours.

My best compliments to Mr. John Reilly and yourself -

Yours sincerely

G. Ros

October 14th, 1921

Signor Guiseppi Ros
Ro. Consolato Generale d(Italia
Hankow, China

Dear Mr. Ros:

I am certainly very glad to hear from you. We had been wondering what had become of you and were hoping that you had not forsaken coins. I trust that you have your office in such shape now that you can go back to your chosen hobby.

The more I have thpught and seen those large gold coins, the less I have been inclined to think that they were genuine. A number of them have passed through the hands of Welma Schroemo of Weeks and Co. Personally, I do not take much stock in this man.

I have heard of Mr. Woodward but have never corresponded with him. I understand that he has written a pamphlet on some coins issued by a General 'Lo-Pooey'. Can you let me know how I can get one of these pamphlets? Shall I write to him direct? If so, will Shanghai be a sufficient address? I am enclosing a rubbing of one of the coins about which I think he has written.

I am glad to know that you are going to publish your catalogue. We had about given up the thought of trying to do it, on account of our limited funds. I wish to thank you for your thought in seeing that we receive a copy.

As you did not enclose the rubbing of the half-tael as you stated in your letter, ~~and~~ I am working a little in the dark. I think it must be the Kirin piece, of which I am enclosing a rubbing; later I will send you a photograph of this. This was formerly in my collection but now in that of the Society. It was published in the Yokohama Numismatic Society's Journal, Meiji 44 Tenth month, No.16. No comment was given except that it was a Kirin half-tael. - To my knowledge, it has not been mentioned elsewhere. Its weight is 276½ grains. I picked it up years ago at the St.Louis Coin and Stamp Company.

Signor Guiseppi Ros October 14, 1921

I am also enclosing a rubbing of a Yunnan piece similar to the Sze-chuan. I think you are familiar with this. I saw it in the British Museum.

The historical sketch of the Grand Hint came at the same time as your letter. We did not have a copy and we were most glad to receive this - especially as it fills a long-felt want in telling us in what years the different pieces were struck.

Again I want to thank you for the two coins which you sent. I had been looking for a long while for the Yuan Shih-K'ai. I had not heard of the other one of the 8th year.

P.S. Totally [illegible] to be remembered. And if you are agreeable you have the [illegible], we would like to keep in closer touch with you.

Very truly yours,

Curator

[illegible]
Encs.

November 15th, 1921

Signor Guiseppi Ros
Ro. Consolato General d'Italy
Hankow, China

Dear Mr. Ros:

As I wrote you in my last letter, the next time I photographed some coins I would photograph the Kirin half-taler, and I am herewith enclosing it.

There is really nothing new to report since I wrote you last.

Very truly yours,

HW/E
Ros.

Curator

November 25th, 1921

Signor Guiseppi Ros
No. Consolato General d'Italy
Hankow, China

Dear Mr. Ros:

I am enclosing rubbings made some time ago of some of the more unusual Chinese coins. I thought that they had been sent long ago. Whether or not they are of any value to you now I do not know, but you are welcome to them.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW/E
Encs.

American Numismatic Society

Date

Stamp

# A.

## PARCEL POST
## WETWEEN CHINA AND THE UNITED STATES.
## FORM OF CUSTOMS DECLARATION.

Place to which the parcel is addressed

New York

| Description of parcel; (state whether box, basket, bag, etc. | CONTENTS | Value $ | cts. | Per cent | Total Customs Charges $ | cts. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | medals medals & coins | | | | | |
| | Total | $ | | | | |

EXPORT PRICE

Date of Posting .....19 ; signature and address of sender.....

.....

For use of Post Office only, and to be filled up at the Office of exchange

Parcel Bill No..... ; No. of rates prepaid..... ; Entry No.....

# B.

Parcel Post from.....

The import duty assessed by on Officer of Customs on contents of this parcel amounts to $..... .... .., which must be paid before the parcel is delivered.

Date

Stamp

.....

*Customs Officer.*

# C.

Parcel Post from.....

This parcel has been passed by an Officer of Customs and must be delivered.

Free of Charge.....

Date

Stamp

CHINE

一六七六

1676

.....

*Customs Officer.*

R° CONSOLATO GENERALE D'ITALIA

Hankow, January 22nd 1922

Dear Mr. Howland Wood,

A few days ago I mailed to the address of the Society a small box containing some Prussian decorations, medals and bars, which I happened to find at an auction of goods sent down from Tsingtau to Shanghai. They are of no value whatever, being cheap reproductions of the official originals: but if you do not consider them as absolute rubbish, I shall be glad to have contributed something to the collections of the Society. The same I may say about a small lot of Chinese medals and badges, duplicates of specimens in my collection, which, I think, is now quite unique. It is not easy to collect such kind of things, as, though some of them have a high historical interest, they are little cared for by the Chinese, on account of their having no intrinsic value at all. I have also sent a gold medal made in Shanghai for presentation by the Italian community of that town to the aviators of the aerial raid Roma-Tokyo. It is a very poor specimen of medallistic art, but as only very few specimens exist of it, I hope that you will accept it, just for its being a souvenir of the successful flight of Lieutenants Ferrarin and Masiero.

I enclose two copies (one for yourself, another for Mr. John Reilly), of the first of the monographs of which my work on the modern Chinese coinage will be composed. I have adopted, with a few alterations, the shape of the publications of our Society, to which the whole work will be dedicated. I am sending in a separate parcel 26 copies ~~of~~ more: one being for the Library of the Society, the others for distribution by the Society to members who take keen interest in Chinese numismatic.

I have now to ask your kind assistance for the preparation of my next two monographs:

On a silver mace struck at Tanchowfu (already described by Bushell: rubbing enclosed).

Have you seen any specimen of this coin in some collections, or found it described in any work (other than by Dr. Bushell)?

May I ask you to have copied by somebody for me, an article by Dr. Adolph Weyl - 3 sprachige chinesische Münzen welche in und für Ost-Turkestan geschlagen sind (from Berliner Münzblatter, 1882 nos 20-22)(1) Also to obtain a copy of the number of the Numismatist for 1901 (containing an article by Brudin, on "Coins of the Chinese abroad).

On early Chinese silver dollars.

A copy of Williams' Notice of three Chinese

(1) In the same magazine, No 45, May 1884 Dr. V. Winckel describes other Turkestan coins - Kindly, if possible, let me have the article copied down. And if in the catalogue of oriental coins in the British Museum, anything can be found concerning the same, please let me have also a copy.

medals is highly desired. Also photographs of the three medals (dollars) in question which are in the collection of the Essex Institute.

I have failed to obtain from Spink and Son's the numbers of April and May (?) 1909, of their circular, where a note by E. J. and a paper by Ramsden on "Une pièce inédite" are to be found.

In Martin and Dubner's The current gold and silver coins etc., there is a plate of the native Chinese privately issued silver dollars. May I obtain a photograph of this plate?

It is to be understood that all expenses for remuneration to copyists and for photographs etc. must be reimbursed by me

=

Mr. Woodward - His address is, Shanghai, Chinese Post office Box N° 80 - He is a very interesting gentleman, and very obliging with fellow collectors; but while he has great experience in detecting the most minute differences between dies etc., he lacks knowledge of the history of the Chinese coinage, does not know Chinese, and seems to me to be an easy dupe of those dealers who may be induced by the high prices he offers for rare specimens, to prepare "rarities to order".

Rubbings. I thank you for all those you have sent. The Rupee from Jammu I had never seen, though I had heard of its existence. - I have been always unsuccessful in my efforts to obtain a specimen, even by appealing to the Governor Liang Chih-yao, a personal friend of mine

It seems that the dies are no longer in the Mint. I think that the specimen in the British Museum was presented by Mr. Wilton, British Consul in Tsinanfu (now Minister in Latvia), whom I know to have been in possession of ~~[illegible]~~ one got at the Mint when a few specimens were struck for trial, about 1909.

Kindly excuse the way this letter is written. Should I try to copy it again, it may be delayed for several days, as at this moment I am extremely busy for official matters.

With best wishes of a happy New Year to yourself, Mrs. Wood and Mr. John Reilly,

I remain,

Yours sincerely

G. Ros

P.S.

I have just received from Mr. Woodward a copy of a short paper of his, on Mexican Dollars. It is simply a list of the different dates and mints found on specimens which he has collected. Do you know of any monograph on the subject of Mexican mints and exportation of dollars from Mexico to China? I have been collecting a few notes on the subject, found here and there: but these do not allow me to prepare an exhaustive historical sketch. My notes are mostly culled from Chinese works: may we join together in writing a monograph?

886

№ 737590

TREASURY DEPARTMENT.
Customs Form 3420.
C. D., Feb. 2-21.

DUPLICATE

RECEIPT TO IMPORTER FOR DUTY PAID ON MERCHANDISE IMPORTED THROUGH THE MAILS

U. S. CUSTOMS BUREAU

Port of New York, 3/10, 1922

Country Shown Importer Amer. Illuminating Co.

Sender — Address of Importer 156 4th Ave. Brooklyn

No. of Pkgs. 1 Pkg. Pkt.

| Quantity and Description of Merchandise | VALUE | RATE | DUTY |
|---|---|---|---|
| Imp. Metal N.P. | 300 | 20 | 60 |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| INTERNAL REVENUE TAX AMP. THEREON | | | 25 |
| 1676 Dd. | Duty Collectible | | 85 |

Received payment of Duty as above

EDWARD M. MORGAN

Signature of person making collection

THIS RECEIPT TO BE DETACHED AND GIVEN TO PAYOR

All articles imported through the mails, as presents or otherwise, are subject to the duties provided by the tariff act

2—6288

April 15th, 1932

Signor Guiseppi Ros
R°. Consolato Generale d'Italia
Hankow, China

My dear Mr. Ros:

I have delayed answering your letter of January 22nd because I wanted to get as much of the material requested ready so as to enclose it in my letter.

First of all I want to thank you again for the German decorations and the Chinese badges that you sent on. We were very glad to get all of these as there were several German pieces we did not have, and we were glad to get the wars. Chinese badges and medals are something not represented in our collection and consequently came in most fitting. I want to thank you especially for the gold medal presented to the Italian aviators who flew from Rome to Tokio.

Your monograph, based on our small form, has given us much pleasure, and we have read it and looked at it with great interest. You made quite a saving unknowingly by dispensing with one of the border rules; these double borders really bring up the cost. We are curious to know how much your monograph cost you - that is, per copy. I want to congratulate you on the very nice appearance. The only possible exception I would make is the omission of the lines which separate the title and page number. The printing of the title in red certainly adds to the attractiveness. I have sent several copies off to various people whom I thought would be interested. I still have a number left which I will give out from time to time.

I have had a number of letters from Dr. Tracey Woodward, and he has been sending us reprints of all of his articles.

Signor Guiseppi Ros April 15th, 1922

Now in reference to your queries -

Years ago I made a note, probably from Bushell, concerning that Lanchowfu silver piece. Unfortunately, I made no note as to where I copied the account from, but it could only have been from Bushell, I think. I have never seen any other account.

We have Dr. Weyl's 3 Sprachige Chinesische Munzen, and I will either photograph orhave it copied soon.

We have not got Dr. Winckel's article; I have not been able to locate it. British Museum catalogues have stayed clear of the Turkestan coins. The two articles by Brudin in the Numismatist were sent you last week.

Williams' notice on three Chinese silver medals I enclose herewith. I have made rubbings of the three pieces he illustrates. I have also made copy of the two articles which I think you mean in Spink's Circular. I am enclosing Martin and Trubner's account for which you asked. The coins are shown by rubbings from some of our coins.

Have you Valentine's book on Mohammedan coins. He takes in some of the Chinese Turkestan coins of the old type - that is, cast with square holes.

Do not hesitate to call on us whenever you want anything for we shall be glad to do our best for you.

I am beginning to collect stamps. Some of the catalogues are as clear as they might be from a historical standpoint, and possibly you could answer these two or three questions -

Have the Republicans in China issued stamps different to those in North China? If so, what are they like?

Have any of the Revolutionary Generals issued stamps?

Did Yuan Shih Kai issue stamps when he tried to be Emperor?

Has the Italian Government issued stamps for China otherwise than surcharged for Tsientsin and Pekin?

Signor G. Ros April 15th, 1922

If you have any odd cancelled stamps which you do not know what to do with, I would appreciate them.

I know of no good monograph on the subject of Mexican mints or on Mexican dollars. In fact, that is a phase that I have been wishing there had been written about. I hardly know what to say about tackling this subject, but I will think it over.

Very truly yours,

Director

M/E

May 13th, 1921

Signor Guiseppi Ros
R°. Consolato General d'Italy
- Hankow, China

Dear Mr. Ros:

I am sending you, herewith, copy of 3 Derschlige [illegible] by Adolph Feyl, which one of our young ladies copied out and made the drawings. He did this in her and moments and there is no expense attached.

Very truly yours,

Curator

W/H
Enc.

19/III 22

Dear Mr. Howland Wood,

On a trip to Changsha, the capital of Hunan province, which has an autonomous government, I have secured a dollar and a 20-cash issued in rather limited number of specimens, in commemoration of the Provincial constitution of Hunan (湖南省憲成立紀念), on the 1st January 1922 (中華民國十一年一月一日). There is also a 10-cash piece of the same design, but the working dies are not ready yet. I am enclosing two specimens of each of the above named coins, which please accept with my best compliments.

Very sincerely yours

F. Ko

May 24th, 1922

Signor Guiseppi Ros
R°. Consolato General D'Italy
Hankow, China

Dear Mr. Ros:

I wish to thank you most sincerely for the two Hunan dollars and the two Kuran copper pieces.

As yet I have not been able to get hold of a copy of Dr. Winckel's article that you want. I have the memorandum on my desk.

We have picked up nothing recently in the way of Chinese coins, but we have been following with much interest the warfare between Wu and Chang. I hope China will settle her affairs soon. People in this country have a much warmer feeling for China than they have for Japan.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW/E

Reilly

Harbin, 16th June 1922

Dear Mr. Howland Wood,

I am travelling in Manchuria, and probably will return to my post in Hankow about the end of August. I will then reply to the queries contained in your letter which has just reached me. I must thank you for all the trouble you have been subjecting yourself to for giving me all the information embodied in your letter. I am really sorry to have caused to you such amount of work. During my passage through Peking I have seen a very rare dollar with President Hsu Shih-chang's portrait: I had to pay $ 100 - Mex. for it! Chinese coins (modern) are obtaining now fancy prices and several rare coppers are now quoted even more than that sum, so that here too coin collecting is becoming an expensive hobby.

Yours sincerely

G. Ro

Peking, Italian Legation
May 5th, 1925

Dear Mr. Howland Wood,

You will be somewhat surprised to receive a letter from somebody whom you may have suspected to be dead long ago, since it has been for years that I have not addressed to you a single line.

I have been travelling quite a lot, and lately my health has not been excellent, so that I have decided to travel just a little more and visit my native Country, passing through the States.

I plan to remain a couple of weeks or even more in New York, which left on me a very magnificent impression when I visited it six years ago. Perhaps I will leave China during August next, so I will be there about the end of that month or the beginning of September.

Do you think it will interest the members of the Society to see a few of the rarest coins of my collection (modern Chinese) and also my collection of Chinese medals, badges and decorations? If so, an exhibition may be arranged and I may bring with me coins and medals. Please let me know at your earliest convenience. On my part I will inform you of the exact date of my arrival, as soon as I have secured a passage.

Yours sincerely,

G. Ros

June 3, 1925

Mr. Giuseppi Ros
Italian Legation
Peking, China

Dear Mr. Ros:

It certainly was a surprise and a pleasure to hear once again from you. I have suspected all along that you must have been very busy and probably not actively collecting. I am sorry to hear that you have not been well and trust that a return home and travel will make you feel like yourself once more.

I understand one cannot keep continuedly well in China. You will find New York in all probability in September a very enjoyable place to stay. I will be here and I am looking forward to seeing more or less of you.

There are so few collectors of modern Chinese coins that but few would be interested; nevertheless, there are a few who would enjoy seeing them very much and I know that I would very much like to see some of your rarities. Why not, therefore, bring on a few of these? If you have duplicates that are different than the common, ordinary designs and pieces of interest, you can readily sell them here in New York. If you have any of your books on Republican coins left, bring them on as I know you can sell several copies.

Unfortunately, Mr. Reiley leaves for China in a few days and plans to stay there a year. He goes to Shanghai and then up the river into the hills where the people spend their summers - I think at Kew Lin Kwe. In about October he will go to Peking and spend the winter and early Spring there.

Trusting to hear from you again giving me further developments of your plans, I remain

Very cordially

Curator

HW C

S.S. TENYO MARU

San Francisco
September 4th

Dear Mr. Howland Wood,

I will leave to-day for New York via Chicago, where I will stop perhaps for a couple of days. I will arrive in New York about the 10th or 11th instant, and I am going to stay at the McAlpin Hotel.

In case you are not going every day to the Numismatic Society, will you be good enough to let me know, at the McAlpin, your home address, so that I may call on you soon after my arrival.

Some letters for me will be ad-

dressed c/o Numismatic Society. Kindly give instructions to keep the same till my arrival in New York.

Yours very sincerely,

G. Roy

September 9th, 1925

Mr. Guiseppi Ros
Hotel McAlpin
New York

Dear Mr. Ros:

I have your letter as well as two letters which were sent here addressed to you. Welcome to this country, and I trust that you will find it as enjoyable as you did the last time!

Let me know when you arrive and wish to see me. I shall be at the office every day, having now finished my vacation. Our telephone number is Wadsworth 7735.

Trusting to see you in a day or so,

Very truly yours,

Curator

November 5th, 1925

Mr. Giuseppi Ros
Italian Legation
Peking, China

Dear Mr. Ros:

I was sorry that I could not see more of you the last days you were in New York. I trust that you had a pleasant trip to Italy and back to China.

We finally got the decorations from the Hotel McAlpin. They had been stored down in the cellar there for two or three days, and I presume that we got them all, but as the trunk was unlocked and had been overturned and part of the contents spilled out, a few may have disappeared. I counted just about fifteen hundred specimens. Later on, I am going to write you again to ask you if you can attribute certain ones for me.

Mr. Reilly is now in Peking, and his address is: No.4 Chao Tang Tze Hutung, Peking.

I am enclosing three letters which arrived for you after you had left.

Very truly yours,

Encs.

Curator

November 15, 1926

Signor Giuseppe Ros,
Italian Commissioner on
Extraterritorial Jurisdiction in China,
Peking, China

Dear Mr. Ros:

It is a long time since I have written to you, and I trust that since you were last here you have been happy, busy, and contented.

Mr. Peilly reached home a month agoand said that he saw you several times, but that he was sorry not to have seen more of you.

First of all, I wish to thank you for that lot of Annamese copper pieces you sent us through Mr. Peilly. As you well know, we are always glad to get anything in the way of Chinese coins.

Mr. Peilly is slowly bringing up to the Museum the various pieces he purchased in China. I have glanced through those he has brought up, but still there are more to come.

I have been meaning to write to you for some time, but have really been extremely busy.

With kindest remembrances, I remain

Very truly yours,

Curator

ITALIAN COMMISSIONER ON
EXTRATERRITORIAL JURISDICTION IN CHINA.
PEKING.

Sunday

Dear Mr. Reilly,

I have just bought a small lot of Anhwei coppers, for the sake of one variety missing in my collection. I take the liberty to send you herewith the others, thinking that they may represent additions to the Society' collection.

With kindest regards

Yours sincerely

S. Ro

R.LEGAZIONE D'ITALIA
PECHINO

May 5th,1927

Dear Mr.Wood,

I have been so busy since my return to China that there was no possibility for me to attend to correspondence with friends.

I had the pleasure to meet several times Mr.Reilly during his stay in Peking. I hear he is planning another trip to China: when will be your turn to visit this country?

May I ask you to be good enough to inform me whether there is any possibility for the Society or some of its members to acquire my collection of medals,badges and decorations deposited there,in bulk,for approximately gold dollars one thousand five hundred?

My collection is the result of nearly nineteen years work,and while some of the more recent specimens can still be easily found,the earlier ones and many of the school badges,etc. cannot absolutely be duplicated now.

I do not think it will be difficult for you to find somebody to make a rough classification of the collection. Of course a definitive one may be proceeded to during my next trip to New York after a few years,when I may devote four or five days to such work.

Should you be able to arrange the sale for me I would appreciate you remitting the net proceed by cable through the International Banking Corporation which has a branch in Peking.

I am sending a small parcel of coins for the Society. If they are already in the Society's collection you are at liberty to keep the same for your own collection.

Thanking you in advance for your kind interest in my request, with kind regards to Mrs. Howland Wood and yourself,

Yours sincerely,

G. Ros

June 3, 1927

Mr. Guiseppi Ros.,
Consolato General d'Italy,
Peking, China

Dear Sir:

Your letter just at hand. I was more than glad to hear from you. I know you have been very busy and I have refrained from pothering you. Although Mr. Reilly has been here all winter, I have not seen very much of him as he has not been at all well. I enjoyed looking at various things he brought back from China and above all hearing of his trip and the people he met.

At the present moment, I can give you no encouragement about selling your collection. Not knowing you wanted to sell it, I have, of course, not approached anyone, nor do I remember anyone's asking if it was for sale. I really do not know whom to approach as regards buying this. Also it seems to be very hard at present to interest anyone in buying anything for the Society, as we have tried to interest certain rich men lately in other things without success. Again this is a bad time of the year to get hold of the rich. The only thing I can do is to keep my eyes and ears open and see what can be done, though I really think I will not have much luck.

With best regards, I remain

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW:MB

R.LEGAZIONE D'ITALIA
PECHINO

27th April 1950

Dear Mr.Howland Wood,

I have not written to you for years. Life in a Legation in China during these trublous times is very miserable and I have had no leisure to attend to my own affairs and correspondence. How I envy those who live in such splendid a city as New York, where work is hard but is accompanied by all the relaxation afforded by a big center. Here life is so dull and when you feel tired mentally and bodily there is no other satisfaction than to go to bed.

The historical department of a local University where they are collecting souvenirs of the revolutionary movement and of recent political events in China would like to acquire my collection of medals and badges; but of course they should first have a look at it.

May I ask you to let me know whether there is any possibility for somebody or the Society itself to buy the same for one thousand gold dollars ? In that case I would decline the offer of the University. If in your opinion there is no such a chance in the near future could you be good enough to repack the things and hand them to the American Express Company for shipment to me, freight and insurance (for 1000 gold) to be paid by myself on delivery ?

I am very sorry to have to trouble you for such a trifle matter, but I have no person in New York whom to entrust with the packing of my collection.

Thanking you in advance and with kind regards also to Mrs.Howland Wood,

Yours sincerely,

S. Ros

May 28, 1930

Hon. Giuseppe Ros
R. Legazione D'Italia
Peping, China

Dear Sir:

Your letter was received the other day, and I am sorry to know that you are not having the enjoyable time that you might have, or that we in this country, would wish you to have. Mr. Tracy Woodward was over here a while ago and I enjoyed meeting him very much.

Since the receipt of your letter I have talked with one or two people about your collection, but no one seems inclined to purchase it. Unfortunately it is not catalogued and it is therefore hard to interest anyone on that account. I am directing our man to carefully pack it. I will have it put in a wooden case as the tin trunk that the collection came in, was in bad shape, and set about seeing how it can best be shipped over to you.

Very sincerely yours,

May 29, 1930

Hon. Giuseppe Ros
R. Legazione D'Italia
Peping, China

Dear Sir:

Since my letter to you of yesterday, I think I have made arrangements whereby the Express Company will take the package collect, we giving proper affidavit that we will be responsible. I will, therefore, unless something turns up with the Express Company, send the medals to you without undue delay.

Very truly yours,

Curator.

July 10, 1930

Hon. Giuseppe Ros
R. Legazione D'Italia
Peping, China

Dear Mr. Ros:

The American Express Company has just notified us that they are unable to forward the box of decorations, etc., collect, and that in order to have it shipped from this end it would have to be prepaid. We know that you are anxious to have this shipment and as it would necessitate a delay of about three months for us to write to you and to receive the required amount of money from you, we are to-day sending the Express Company a checque for $65.90, in order that your property may be shipped with as little delay as possible. As the Society does not have a special fund to care for such expenditures, the money had to be taken from our gneral fund, and we should, therefore, be very much obliged to you if you will kindly return the sum of $65.90 to us at your earliest convenience.

The Express Company also informs us that the shipment will only be sent as far as Tientsin, from which station you yourself, will have to direct its delivery to your address.

Very truly yours,

August 4th 1930

Hon. Guiseppe Ros
Italian Legation
Peiping, China

Dear Sir:

Enclosed is a bill of lading on the box of decorations and medals which was shipped to you at Tientsin, from which place you are to make arrangements for the shipment to be delivered to you at Peiping.

Very truly yours,

AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

Curator.

Oct. 24,1930

Hon. Giuseppe Ros
R. Legazione D'Italia
Peping, China

Dear Mr. Ros:

We have had no word from you in answer to our several letters, the last of which was sent you on July 10th, notifying you that as the American Express Company would not accept your box of decorations unless prepaid from this end, this Society shipped the box and paid $65.90 in advance. The same letter also informed you that the American Express Company could not make shipment any further than Tientsin, from which station you yourself would have to direct its delivery to your address. A few days later a bill of lading was forwarded to you to facilitate the delivery of the shipment into your hands.

Naturally we are anxious to hear from you and to have the above mentioned sum reimbursed to the Society as this money was taken from our general fund which does not allow for such expenditures.

May we hear from you as quickly as possible?

Very truly yours,

Curator.

March 27,1931

Mr.Guiseppe Ros

Italian Legation

Peiping, China

Dear Mr.Ros:

As we have not heard from you concerning the receipt of the Chinese decorations sent you, we put a tracer on the shipment and found that the box of decorations was delivered to Messrs. Cornalba and Pezzini (Tientsin Forwarding Agency) at Tientsin, on September 8th. Kindly let us know if you have presented the original bill of lading which we sent you, and whether you have received the goods.

Very truly yours

Curator.